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A BRIEFE TREATISE

CONCERNING

THE REGULATING OF PRINTING.

Humbly presented to the PARLIAMENT of *England*.

By WILLIAM BALL, Esq.

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LONDON,
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BRITISH MUSEUM

A BRIEFE TREATISE CONCERNING The Regulating of Printing.

Mongſt many temporall Benefits which Divine Bounty hath in ſeverall ages manifeſted to mankinde, the invention of *the Myſtery, or Art of Printing* may rightly be acknowledged one of the greateſt, as an exact and exquiſite Inſtrument, opening to the underſtanding, not onely all naturall Sciences, but even ſupernaturall Myſteries; by the meanes whereof the mindes of men have been endowed with many excellent gifts. Yet even as the beſt

things have been abuſed, ſo hath this beneficiall Art been notoriouſly depraved by vaine, contentious, and ſeditious Perſons; to the great confuſion of Doctrinall Tenets, and Diſturbance of State-Affairs: For prevention (as much as may be) of ſo dangerous extravagancies, the moſt regular Chriſtian *Potencies* (or Republicks) and Illuſtrious *Potentates* have thought fit *to comprehend the liberty of Printing, (even as of Coyning) within the ſphere of their ſeverall Powers:* Wherein (amongſt others) the late Q. *Elizabeth*, and her ſucceſſors have (not without mature deliberation, and ſage preſidents in this point) been moſt vigilant, well perceiving *that the Eye of underſtanding might be ſubject to be deceived by erroneous principles in Print, as may the bodily Eye by counterfeit Coyne*; In Regard whereof they propagated wholſome Orders, and Decrees for the Regulating of Printing, and Printers; which rightly conſidered, cannot be defaced, no not blemiſhed by the notion of *Tyranny*. Moreover it is

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an *Axiom* of State, that, *Acta legitima Tyrannorum & Hostium Reipublicæ rata esse oportere.* [*Bodin. de Republicâ, L.1.c.5.*] The lawfull Acts of Tyrants, even of (over-Lording) enemies ought to be observed in a Common-wealth: so that admitting Oppression, or Tyranny in some Transactions of these Later Princes, yet their prudent, and just Ordinances are not to be Rejected, but rather (*mutatis mutandis*) to be carefully conserved.

Wherefore with all humble submission to the High Representative of this Nation, I have tendred these subsequent Proposalls and clauses concerning the Regulating of Printing, and Printers, unto their grave Considerations, and censures; part whereof I have collected out of former Ordinances, and have partly proposed somewhat of mine owne; as hereafter ensueth.

I.

That no perſon or perſons whatſoever Print, or cauſe to be Printed any offenſive Bookes, Pamphlets, Papers, or Ballads to the Derogation of this preſent Government, or ſeditious diſturbance of this Common-wealth, or of any Dominion, Member, or Corporation thereof, nor ſhall ſell, or diſpoſe of any ſuch Bookes, Pamphlets, Papers, or Ballads, upon Paine that he, or they ſo offending ſhall forfeit for every ſuch Booke, &c. the ſumme of 10l. The one halfe to the uſe of the Common-wealth, the other to the party diſcovering the ſame, and ſuffer ſuch farther puniſhment as the Demerit of the Offence, or Offences ſhall deſerve.

II.

That no perſon or perſons whatſoever ſhall Print, or cauſe to be Printed any Booke or Pamphlet whatſoever, unleſſe ſuch Booke or Pamphlet, and all, and every the Titles, Epiſtles, Prefaces, Pro-ems, Preambles, Introductions, Dedi-cations, Tables, and all other matters, and things thereunto annexed, or there-with imprinted ſhall be firſt lawfully Li-cenſed, and Authoriſed by ſuch Perſon, or Perſons as the Parliament of *England* ſhall in their wiſdomes conſtitute, and appoint; and that all, and every ſuch Book, or Pamphlet be alſo firſt entred into the Regiſter Book of the Company of Stationers; upon Paine that every Printer offending therein ſhall be hereaf-ter for ever diſenabled to exerciſe the Art, and Myſtery of Printing, and ſuffer impriſonment by the ſpace of one whole yeare: provided that this extend not to the Printers of the Parliament of *Eng-land*,

land, and Councell of State, for or touching any Booke which they shall Command, or allow of.

III.

That all the Books concerning Divinity, Phylosophy, and Poetry shall be Printed by speciall Allowance of the Chaplaines in ordinary to the Councell of State, or by one of them; And in case of no such Chaplaines in being, then by three Divines for that purpose appoynted, or by one of them; All Books of State Affaires, and History (except Diurnalls) to be licenced by the Secretary of State, with two more of the Councell of State joyned unto him, or by one of them: All Books concerning Law to be Licenced by the Lords Commissioners of the greate Seale, Lord cheif Justices, Master of the Rolls, or by one of them; All Books touching Phisicke to be Licenced by three of the Colledge of Phisitians appointed for that purpose, or by one

ne of them; All Books of Mathema-
cks to be Licenced be three profeſſed
Mathematicians, being appoynted there-
nto, or by one of them; All Books of
Military Diſcipline to be Licenced by
three of the Councell of War, or other-
wiſe of the Grand Committee for the
Militia, or by one of them; All Books
of Heraldry to be Licenced by the Prin-
cipall Herald at Armes with two other
Authorized Heralds joyned unto him, or
by one of them; All Books concerning
forraigne Languages to be allowed by
three Linguiſts for that purpoſe appoyn-
ted or by one of them.

Provided that the Chancellors or
Vice-Chancellors of the Univerſities ſhall
Licence onely ſuch Booke, or Books
that are to be Printed within the Limitts
of the Univerſities Reſpectively, but not
in *LONDON* or elſe-where, not med-
ling with Books of Common Law, mat-
ters of State, Military Diſcipline and He-
raldry.

IV.

IV.

That every Person, or Persons which are, or shall be appoynted, or Authorized to Licence Books, shall have two severall Copies *entirely* written; one of which Copies shall be kept in a *Publicke Office, or Registrie* for that purpose to be appoynted, the which Copy every such Person, or Persons who shall Respectively allow of, or licence for Printing shall send into the said *Office, or Registry* testified under his, or their hands, to the end that he or they may be secured, that the Copy so licensed by him, or them, is not altered without his or their privity; the other Copy Licensed shall remaine in his hands whose Copy it is; and all Stationers, and Printers that shall Print, or cause to be imprinted any Copy, or Copies whatsoever differently from this Rule, to incurre the penalties contained in the second clause.

V.

V.

That every Merchant of Books, or Per-
on, or Persons whatsoever who shall Im-
ort any Book, or Books from beyond
e Seas into this Common-wealth of
ngland, shall before he, or they deliver,
r cause to be delivered forth any such
ook, or Books out of his, or their
nds, or expose them to sale, deliver
a true Catalogue in writing of all and
very such Book, and Books unto the
laster of the *Office, or Registrie* for Co-
es aforesaid; upon paine of forfeiture,
nd Confiscation of all, and every such
ook and Books, and twenty shillings
ne for every such Book delivered
rth, or exposed to sale; the one half
the use of the Common-wealth, the
ther to the Party discovering the same.

VI.

VI.

That no Merchant of Books, or Per
ſon, or Perſons whatſoever ſhall import
or cauſe to be imported from beyond th
Seas any offenſive or ſcandalous Books
Pamphlets, Papers, Portraitures, o
Ballads into any part of this Common
wealth of England, upon incurring th
penalties contained in the firſt clauſe.

VII.

That no Perſon, or Perſons whatſoe-
ver ſhall within the Precincts, and Do-
minions of this Common-wealth, or elſ-
where Imprint, or cauſe to be imprinted,
or ſhall Import or cauſe to be imported
into this Common-wealth of England,
or any part thereof, any Copy, Book, or
Books, or part of any Copy, Book, or
Books Printed beyond the Seas, or elſ-
where, which the Company of Statio-
ners, or any other Perſon, or Perſons
have

ve, or ſhall have Right unto by Order entrance in their Regiſter-Book; or herwiſe by ſpeciall Order of Parliaent, or by Letters-Patent, being *un-led* by this preſent Parliament; nor all binde, ſtitch, or expoſe to ſale any ch Book, or Books, upon paine of forfeiture all the ſaid Books, and twenty illings fine for every ſuch Book, to be ed by Writ, or Action, Bill, &c. by e Perſon, or Perſons aggrieved.

VIII.

That every Perſon who ſhall hereafter int, or cauſe to be printed any Books, allads, Charts, Portraictures, or other hing, or things whatſoever, ſhall thereto, or thereon ſet his, and their owne ame, or names; as alſo the Name, or am es of the Author, or Authors, Maker, or Makers of the ſame; and by, or or whom any ſuch Book, or other thing s, or ſhall be printed, upon payne of forfeiture of all ſuch Books, &c. And having

having his, or their Presses, Letters, a
other Instruments for Printing to be
terly defaced, and made unserviceab
and twenty shillings fine for every suc
Book, &c. The one half to the use of t
Common-wealth, the other to the Part
discovering the same.

IX.

That no person, or persons whatsoeve
shall Print or cause to be Printed, forge
put, or counterfeit, in or upon any Book
or Bookes, &c. the name, title, marke
or vinnet of the Company of Stationers
or of any particular person, or person
which hath, or shall have lawfull Privi
ledge, Authority, or Allowance to Prin
the same, without consent of the said
Company, or of the Party, or Partie
which shall be so priviledged, and Au-
thorized, first had, and obtained, upon
paine of incurring the Penalty in the se-
venth clause.

X.

X.

That no Tradesmen, Shop-keepers, or any other person or persons whatsoever, not being a free Stationer of the City of *London*, or not having served 7. years apprenti e to the trade of Book-seller, Printer, or Book-binder, shall within the City, or Suburbs of *London*, receive, take, or buy, to barter, sell againe, exchange, or doe away any Bibles, Testaments, Primmers, Psalm-books, Almanacks, or other Book, or Books whatsoever, upon paine of forfeiture of all such Books, and twenty shillings fine for every such book, to be sued by Writ, or Action, Bill, &c. by the person, or persons aggrieved.

XI.

That no Stranger, or Forreigner whatsoever, be suffered to bring in for sale, barter, or rent, here, any book or books printed beyond the Seas, in any Lan-

guage whatsoever, either by themselves, or their secret Factors, except such onely as be free Stationers of *London*, and such as have been brought up in that profession, upon paine of confiscation of all such Books so imported, and twenty shillings fine for every such Booke to be sued by writ, or Action, &c. by the Master, and Wardens of the Company of the Stationers.

XII.

And for as much as there may be great abuse committed by Searchers, and other Officers of the Customes by seizure of Books, who (as I have heard credibly reported) seize *English* Bibles, Testaments, & other Books, Printed in *Holland*, and in other parts beyond the Seas very erroniously, to the dangerous introduction of severall Heresies within this Common-wealth, and great Injury to such, to whom of right the Copies or Originalls of such Bookes belong; and after

such seizure (having as is is said first enacted customs in Grosse) vent, and disperse the said Bibles, Testaments, and Bookes, in *England*, *Ireland*, and other Dominions of this Common-wealth: for prevention whereof, no Searcher, nor other Officer of the Customes or excise whatsoever shall hereafter seize on any Books (if discovered) before he first acquaint the Master of the *Office, or Registrie for Copies* aforesaid, together with the Master, and Wardens of the Company of Stationers, (upon pain of forfeiture of his, or their Places, and Imprisonment) who shall have Power to accompany such Searchers, and Officers of the Customes: and shall forthwith upon discovery, take a true Catalogue of such Bookes, and present it to the Honourable Councell of State: And to prevent the farther venting, and dispersing of such erroneous Bibles, Testaments, and other Bookes as aforesaid, after notice given unto the Honourable Councell of State, the said Master of the *Office, or Registrie*

for Copies, together with the Master, and Wardens, of the Company of the Stationers, or some of them, shall cut, or cause to be cut into waste paper, or otherwise utterly deface the said *English* Bibles, Testaments, and other Bookes printed in *Holland*, and in other parts beyond the Seas, and deliver the said waste paper, or defaced Bookes, to such to whom of right the Copies, or Originalls doe belong.

XIII.

Moreover for farther prevention of Importation, venting, and dispersing of Seditious, Schismaticall, and Offensive Bookes, as well as of the Bookes aforesaid, That no Driefats, Sacks, Maunds, Chests, or Fardells of Bookes whatsoever Imported into this Common-wealth be permitted by any Officers of the Custome or Excize, to be opened or conveyed away before notice given unto the *Master of the Office, or Registry for Copies*,

and also to the Master, and Wardens of the Company of Stationers, (upon paine of such Officer, or Officers forfeiture of his, or their Places, and Imprisonment) And the said *Master of the Office, or Registrie for Copies*, as also the Master and Wardens of the Company of the Stationers shall have Power to accompany the Searchers and other Officers of the Customs, and excise within 48. houres after such notice given (Sabbath-Dayes, and dayes of publick Thanksgiving, and of Humiliation being excepted out of the sayd 48. houres) and shall also have Power to seize on all Seditious, Schismaticall, and offensive Books, and forthwith take a true Catalogue of such Books, and present it to the Councell of State; and after that carry the said bookes into the Stationers Hall, there to remaine in safe custody, untill farther order taken by the Councell of State; And the said Master, and Wardens of the Company of the Stationers, if they cannot performe the same by themselves, shall have

Power to depute and nominate from time to time, sufficient persons in his, or their stead, provided that at all times one of the said Masters or Wardens be present at every search; And the said Master of the *Office, or Registrie for Copies*, and the Master, and Wardens of the Company of the Stationers, shall have power to appoint some convenient place where searches shall be made; and if the said Master *of the Office, or Registrie for Copies*, Master, and Wardens of the Company of the Stationers shall neglect, or omit on their parts any thing, or Duty which they ought to performe herein, they shall incurre such penalty as the Councell of State (upon Information of such their neglect, or offence) shall in their wisdomes thinke fit, be it by fine, or Imprisonment.

XIV.

XIV.

That no person, or persons within the City of *London*, liberties thereof, or elsewhere, shall erect, or cause to be erected any Presse, or Printing house; or shall demise, let, or suffer to be held, or used any House, Vault, Seller, or other roome whatsoever to, or by any persons for a Printing house, or place to print in, unlesse he, or they who shall demise, let, or suffer the same to be used, shall first give notice to the Masters, and Wardens of the Company of the Stationers of such Demise, or suffering to work, or print, upon paine of forfeiture of 20l. for every such offence, the one halfe to the use of the Common-wealth, the other to the party discovering the same.

XV.

And for the better discovering of printing in corners without Licence, the

Maſter, and Wardens of the Company of Stationers, or ſuch whom they ſhall depute and truſt, ſhall have Power, and Authority, to ſearch what houſes, ſhops, vaults, and rooms (and at what time they ſhall thinke fit) eſpecially Printing houſes, and to view what is in Printing, and to call for the Licence to ſee whether it be Licenced or no, and if not, to ſeize upon ſo much as is printed, together with the Preſſes, and all Inſtruments for printing, and to carry the offenders before the Councell of State, or the L. *Preſident* thereof for the time being, to take ſuch farther order therein, as they ſhall in their wiſdomes ſee cauſe.

XVI.

That no Joyner, Carpenter, or other perſon ſhall make any printing preſſe, nor Smith ſhall forge any Iron-worke for a printing preſſe, nor Founder caſt any letters for any perſon, or perſons whatſoever, nor ſhall any perſon or perſons

bring in from any parts beyond the seas any letters founded, or cast, nor buy any such letters for printing, unlesse he, or they respectively shall first acquaint the said Master, and Wardens, or some of them for whom the said Presse, Iron-works, or Letters are to be made, forged, or cast, upon paine of Imprisonment, and such farther penalty as the Councell of State shall think fit.

XVII.

Whereas the multitude of printers is greatly increased by the late licencious and by-printing of unlicenced pamphlets, and other seditious and impertinent books, and papers, to the great scandall of this Common-wealth, and their owne disgrace, ignominy, and want of good, and sufficient employment, and maintenance; for present remedy whereof, the Printers attempt a cure as bad, or worse then the disease, by petitioning the Honourable Committee for regu-

ting of Printing, that they would be pleased to report to the High Representative of this Nation, that the said Printers might be made a Fraternity, or Company distinct from the Stationers; against, and in opposition of such their not only unsound, but even dangerous Petition, and desires, I have thought fit to insert these ensuing Reasons, *viz.*

That Printing being of great concernment, and of important consequence, by meanes whereof this Common-wealth may either enjoy benefit, or receive notorious detriment; Printers therefore ought to have some carefull, and exact supervisors over them, even as Apothecaries (who have the Colledge of Physitians, and Doctors of Physique over them, not only to prescribe, but also to peruse their Medicines) lest the first poyson the mindes of the People by erroneous principles in print, as may the last their bodies, by evil Medicines, and also by self-compliance (in case they should be a Fraternity, or Company distinct from

the Stationers) Print undecently,
, and as they please according to
er, and Paper (as do some Printers
Amsterdam and Geneva) to the dis-
nour of this Common-wealth, dis-
ment to the people, and pre-purposed
riment of the Stationers whom they
ligne, and inveigh against, and would
regard of their present pressures occa-
ned by themselves) undermine by spe-
ous pretences: who notwithstanding
chiefly the men which this Common-
alth can subordinately intrust (in re-
ect of their skill, abilities and long
ntinued industry that waies) to super-
se the Art and Mistery of Printing,
d Printers. And if they should say that
e Apothecaries seperated themselves
om the Grocers, and became a Com-
ny distinct, and why may not the
inters doe the like? I answere, that
e case is not alike, for the Apothecaries
ell for the major part compounds for
Medicaments, and the Grocers simples
or Nutriment, being things of a distinct
nature

nature, and quality; but the Printers Book-binders, and Stationers make, and sell nothing but a booke, &c. Howeve the Apothecaries are subject to the Doctors of Physique as aforesaid, and if the printers should exempt themselves from the Stationers, there would be none found, who might subordinately Regulate, and reforme such abuses, and disorders which those Innovating, and meane undertakers may in all probability from time to time commit.

XVIII.

Moreover it is a *Maxime* of Policy, as well as of Philosophy, that *Frustra fit per plura, quod potest fieri per pauciora; modo ita bene fiat*: That thing is in vaine done by more, which may be done by lesse, in case it may be as well accomplished: The Regulating of Printing, and Printers, may, not onely for the welfare of the Publique, but even for the good of themselves (if not exorbitant in their

defires) be ſubbordinately perfor-
by the Stationers, without any crea-
or making the Printers a diſtinct
mpany. If the number of the Prin-
houſes in *London* were ſtinted, and
e of them ſuffered to be without the
rties of the Citty of *London*.
f the number of Printing-preſſes were
itted.
f the number of Apprentices were alſo
ited.
If the Maſter and Wardens of the
mpany of the Stationers take good
e, that Journeymen-Printers (who are
e of the Company of Stationers) of
eſt behaviour, and able in the Art or
ſterie of Printing, be employed and
on worke; and in caſe ſuch Journey-
n Printers are in want of worke, Ap-
ntices to be removed from ſuch em-
yments as any Journeymen-Printers
good behaviour ſhall offer themſelves
o.
Laſtly, if the Printers themſelves will
ſubject to the good Orders and Con-
ſtitutions

ſtitutions of the Company of Statione
concerning all which (as alſo the pri
of uſefull Books) I conceive the Maſ
Wardens, and other able and experi
ced Stationers, are the fitteſt men to
conſulted with.

XIX.

But it may be greatly ſuſpected, th
the Bible, Teſtament, and ſome of t
Stationers Copies and Originalls, a
the Baits which the Printers wou
catch, or compaſſe: As touching t
Bible, I take it to be a book of ſo hig
conſequence, *wherein the Myſteries*
Salvation are contained, that it ought
be regularly, and exactly, and not comm
nicatively printed, left in a Book of ſo hig
importance, not onely dangerous Error
but even pernicious Hereſies be imprinte
and propagated, and the Book it ſelf be al
undecently Printed in Letter, and Paper
And for as much as *Propriety* (righel
conſidered is) *Relatio Legalis cujuſlibet i*

Bonum

Jus Temporale, A legall Relation of any one to a Temporall good; I conceive *the sole Printing of the Bible, and Testament, with Power of Restraint in others*, to be of Right the *Propriety* of one *MATHEW BARKER*, Citizen and Stationer of *LONDON*, in Regard that his Father paid for the *Amended* or *Corrected* Translation of the *Bible* 3000 l. by reason whereof the *Translated Copy* did of right belong to him, and his Assignes; yet for the better carrying on of so Important a Work, and the Regulating of an Impression of so great concernment, in the fourteenth yeare of *King James* his Reigne, he continued Letters Patents granted to *Robert* his Sonne; since when in the yeare of our Lord 1635. for the farther carrying on, & Regulating of the said Important Impression, there hath beene payed by *Mathew Barker* aforesaid 600 l. for a Reversionary Patent.

If it be said, that *Mathew Barker* his Father made, or might have made benefit

fit enough by his sole Impression of the *Bible*, &c. For the costs, and charges which he was at for the *amended*, *or corrected Translation* thereof, so that *Mathew Barker* himself needs not have a farther benefit thereby: I answere, so doth every one of the Stationers who purchaseth a Copy, or Copies make benefit enough thereby, and yet he enjoyeth such Copy, or Copies for himself, and his Assignes, and so ought to do, or else any other might invade his Right: so also every one who purchaseth Land at the valuation of 18. or 20. yeares Revenew, be it more, or lesse; make at or about the determination of such time sufficient benefit for his purchase, yet there is no Law, nor any reason that himself, his Heires, or Assignes should be excluded, or debarred of the Remainder, *&c.* That were to *Nul* all *Law*, *violate* all *Right*. And certainely according to equity (if not Law) *Mathew Barker* ought to succeede his Father in the sole printing of the *Bible*, &c. both in regard of his

Fathers

fathers costs & charges, as also in respect of his owne Patent Purchased dearely enough, in regard it was for Reversion.

But it may be some will say, that divers may make benefit by *Printing of the Bible, and Testament*, whereas if *Mathew Barker* enjoy the sole Printing thereof, himself will also enjoy the sole benefit thereby for him, or his Assignes: to the which I answere, the same may be objected against *Miles Flesher*, and his Partners, sole Printers of all Law-Books, against *John Field* sole Printer of all Acts for this present Parliament, against *William Dugard* sole Printer for the Councell of State, against *Richard Cotes*, sole Printer of all Acts, Proclamations, and other matters for the City of *London*; against the University-Printers of *Oxford*, and *Cambridge*, who enjoy also the printing of the Bible by Patent, against the Company of the Stationers themselves who enjoy by Patent four severall Books, *viz.* The Psalter, Psalmes, Primmer, and Almanack; yea this may

be objected against very many Stationers, and some Printers, who notwithstanding ought not thereupon to be deprived, or debarred of their rights; for it is, and ought to be held a *Maxime* in Law, and Equity, as in Divinity, *that not any shall doe bad, that good may come thereof*; and consequently not to violate any one of his Propriety, or right, that thereby some or any benefit may accrew to others: moreover all well Regulated Policies (especially Republiques) *doe conserve the particular Right of every Person Individually, so farre as such Right opposeth not the Generall Good, and thereby preserve the Generall Good, without violating any ones particular Right unjustly, or indirectly*, according to which Rule, neither *Mathew Barker*, nor other the Stationers, or Printers nominated ought to be debarred, or deprived any their Originalls, or Copies.

II. If any one should object (as lately a Stationer did unto my selfe) that the Bible cannot properly be called a *Copy*, be-

because it is the written Word of God: although such objection be frivolous, yet to such I answere, that the severall Translations thereof are properly copies, as are the singing, or Metred Psalmes also belonging to the Company of the Stationers aforesaid, *Erasmus* his Latine Translation of the Testament, and many others of the like nature.

XX.

Peradventuee some greedy, and it may be needy Printers, and Stationers, will not be satisfied with Reason, unlesse they may against reasonable equity, invade other mens Proprieties, and Rights. But I hope the High Representative of this Nation, at what time they shall in their wisdomes thinke fit to passe an Act, or Acts for the *Regulating of Printing*, will therein by *expresse Provisoes* confirm, and ratifie not onely the propriety of *Mathew Barker* aforesaid, for him, and his Assignes, but all such other Propriety

and Proprieties which belong to the Company of the Stationers, to every free Stationer respectively; whereby the Prudent care of the *Parliament* will suppresse Licencious Incroachments upon many considerable Copies, and avoyd therein future debate and controversy.

WILLIAM BALL.

Certaine

Certaine Additionall Answers to such objections, as may peradventure be made.

I.

IF it should be said that the Penalties which I have proposed are too great, and also that Penalty left to discretion, in some cases may seeme Rigor. I answer, that Abuses are seldome reformed without great Penalties; and in Regard as great Detriment may ensue to a Common-wealth by scandalous, and seditious Printing, as may by counterfeit and debased Coyning; The Penalty for the one, ought in some measure to æqualize the Penalty of the other: And Penalty in some cases left to the Discretion of grave Personages is not Rigor, but *Prudent Terror*, which may be regulated by *Naturall Equity*.

II.

If it should be said, that the Commissioners of the Great Seale, Judges of the Law, Secretary of State, and some others whom I have nominated for Licencing of Bookes, may in Regard of their great, and weighty Affaires want leisure to peruse, and Licence Bookes, &c.

I answer, that every one of the said Persons and others who shall have power to licence, may have power to entrust, and depute one for them, provided themselves will be responsible for the errors which such Deputies shall Commit; and that such Deputies for their owne names, and the names for whom they are deputed unto such Bookes, &c. which they shall Licence.

III.

If it should be said, That requiring double Copies, and an Office for Registry

thereof would be vexatious, &c. I wer, that the abuſes to Licenſers, as to Authors have been ſo great, (as ſelfe, amongſt others can teſtifie in a Booke of mine owne) that no ſafer can be found; moreover why ſhould thoſe things which appertaine to the inde be kept upon Record, as are many things that appertaine meerely to Lively-hood; and whether men write for the Glory of Almighty God, and good of others (which ought to be the chiefe ends) or the profit of themſelves, let them take ſo much paines as to write the ſubject twice, or otherwiſe ſpare their paines for once. And if it ſhould be ſaid, that by that meanes fewer bookes will come into the Preſſe, I anſwer, not the numerous multitude of Bookes, but the ſolid validity of them will benefit a Common-wealth.

William Ball.